



DIVISION OF MINES
BOARD OF COAL MINING EXAMINERS
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
<http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/dm/default.htm>

First Class Shaft/Slope Foreman West Virginia Reciprocal Agreement

Article 3 of the Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia establishes requirements for certification of coal mine workers. The certification requirements are included in §45.1-161.24 through §45.1-161.41 in which the Board of Coal Mining Examiners is established for the purpose of administering the certification program. The Board has promulgated certification regulations 4 VAC 25-20, which set the minimum standards and procedures required for Virginia coal miner examinations and certifications.

CERTIFICATION CLASSIFICATION: *First Class Shaft or Slope Foreman*

This certification authorizes a miner to:

- Perform duties as a certified shaft or slope foreman/examiner at shaft or slope operations
- Conduct and record findings on pre-shift, on-shift and weekly examinations

NOTE:

- This certification shall not be used in lieu of any other certification. First Class Mine Foreman may conduct required examinations at shaft/slope locations.
- **This certification meets requirement for General Miner.**

APPLICATION/EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:

- Application (BCME-1) and \$10.00 fee 5 working days prior to examination
- Current first aid training (MSHA first aid 5000-23 acceptable)
- Copy of current West Virginia foreman card
- Reciprocity can only be used one time to achieve certification

EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS: A score of 80% on each element of the examination
Applicants must pass the Mining Law section of the First Class Shaft/Slope examination in order for Virginia to reciprocity West Virginia foreman certification. If the mining law examination is failed, then the applicant may submit fee for retake of the examination 10 working days after the notification letter has been sent. If the applicant does not pass on the second try, the entire examination must be taken under the regular examination process for foreman certification.

<u>ELEMENTS OF EXAM</u>	<u>NUMBER OF QUESTIONS</u>
▪ Mining Laws (ML)	20
▪ <u>Records</u> (Surface) Pre-shift/On-shift (PO) Gas Detection (GD)	

RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/STUDY MATERIALS:

- Mining Laws of Virginia
- First Class Mine Foreman Study Guide

The above mentioned study materials are available at the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's Big Stone Gap Office, Customer Assistance Center (276) 523-8233 and Keen Mountain Field Office (276) 498-4533.